

The Excellent and Renowned

HISTORY

Of the Famous

31

Sir *Richard Whittington*,

Three times Lord-Mayor of the Honourable City of LONDON.

Giving an Account of all the Remarkable and noted Passages of his Life.

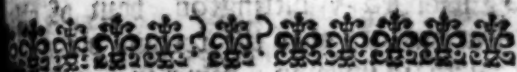
This may be Printed, R. P.



72

THE HISTORY OF THE
LIFE OF
JOHN DEE
BY
JOHN DEE
IN TWO VOLUMES
THE FIRST





The Excellent and Renowned History of the Famous Sir *Richard Whittington*.

C H A P. I.

Now Richard Whittington came to London, and being almost starved, was taken by a Merchant into his House.

That there is something more than ordinary, in the Fates and Fortunes of Men, relating to Adversity and Prosperity; is wonderfully evident by the sinking of some in the World, who by their utmost labour, industry and diligence, to prevent it: and the rise of others, who neither strive for it, or in the least expect it. And one of this Fortunate One is the Person, whose unexpected advancement and great increase of Riches, &c. I relate in this Relation, to whose story I am now proceeding.

Richard Whittington, born of obscure Parents, so that the certain place of Birth is unknown; being in his Childhood cast out to a desperate Fortune, he wandered for a considerable time, about the Country, but finding no employment whereby he could subsist, he resolved for London: where, after many weary steps, he arrived; but being there a stranger, and altogether friendless, he did little but wander up and down the streets for the space of two days. But the third, being tired and faint for want of food, he laid himself down at the door of a Rich Merchant, to bewail his present unhappy condition: which he had scarcely done, before the Merchant came out to go to Exchange, and finding him there, began to chide and threaten him as a lazy Person and a Loperer; telling him that such an idle Fellow, as he appeared to be, ought to be sent to the Stocks or Whipping. But his Replies being modest and affirming that he would refuse no Labour he was capable of performing, if he could find a Master by whom he might be employed with Victuals to ease his Hunger, and Cloaths to cover his Nakedness: he made such a visible Relation, of the state

ing and perishing condition he was in
 the Merchant, whose name was Hugh
 Warren, who was naturally compas-
 sionating at the story, changed his Wal-
 low mules, and calling one of his
 boys, ordered him to take in that stran-
 ger, and supply his wants with provision;
 and to dismiss him till his Re-
 turn. And so proceeded to look after his Af-
 fairs abroad.

CHAP. II.

Mrs. Alice, the Merchant's Daugh-
 ter, procured his being taken into Ser-
 vice, and of the hard usage he received
 from the Cook-Maid, how he purchas-
 ed his Cat and sent her for a Venture.

Hittington being taken out of the
 pinching cold to a warm fire, and
 supplied with provision to his content, did
 a little inwardly rejoice at this begin-
 ning of good luck: But whilst his thoughts
 employed many ways, and tumbled in an-
 swering the many Questions the Servants
 put him, in relation to his Birth, Coun-
 try, and Travels; said Mrs. Alice the Mer-
 chant's only Daughter, upon notice a stran-
 ger

get was ordered by her Father to be
 tained, came out of curiosity to see him
 on sight of whom (his colour and Com-
 on being by this time pretty well reco-
 she was not a little pleased, the more
 by his modest, though surable, And
 her Questions, she found him Witt-
 Ingenious, beyond what his habit or
 ward form could reasonably promise:
 hearing her Father was returned and
 upon the Board, she left him to dine with
 Servants: Yet so far he ran in her
 that although her Father, through the
 of Business, had, in a manner, forgot
 he had caused him to be entertained,
 him in mind of him, and so prevailed,
 she, upon urging that he might be service-
 in the Kitchen, going of Errands, cleaning
 of Shoes and Boots, &c. procured him
 be liked or entertained in the Family:
 in consideration a Lodging was wanted
 she further pleaded, that allowing her
 homely Bed, the Garret, that lay idle
 and unemployed, might afford him a con-
 niency. And thereupon, all scruples of
 kind, being removed, he joyfully entered
 upon his new Service; as not doubting
 give content for the meat, drink and cloth
 which he only expected to be the Reward

Labour and diligence : but being most
apt to drudge in the Kitchen, the Cook-
maid, under whom he served in the nature of
an apprentice, being of a cruel and forward
temper, used her Authority beyond the Rule
of Reason or Humanity, by not only rating
and frequently scolding at him, though he
was no ways remiss in performing what
she was enjoyned him ; but upon the least
trifling occasion, and frequently, without
any cause, would lay on him unmercifully
with the Spit, Tongues, Ladle or what
came next to hand ; and the rather she used
this Cruelty, because she found him so good
natured as not to complain of his hard U-
sage ; being resolved, if possible, to over-
come his Perverseness with Patience. Du-
ring which suffering of his, it so happened,
though his diligence had gained the good-
will of all the Family beside, and especially
of fair Mrs. Alice. But now another trou-
ble happened, the Garret wherein he lay, by
reason of its long unfrequentedness, being
exceedingly pestered with Rats and Mice ;
his quiet was molested in the day by the
Cook-maid, so they did the like in the night,
creeping over his Face and frequently
making to the disturbance of his Repose ;
which obliged him to consider some way to

destroy them : and thereupon he concluded
 to purchase a Cat with a penny, that he
 got for cleaning a pair of Shoes for a Gentleman
 who accidentally lodged in his
 Mistrs house. Now it so happened that the
 generous Merchant, whom he served, never
 sent any Ship to Sea ; but he caused them
 one of his family, as well Servants
 others, to send some part of their proper
 Goods as an Adventure, for which they were
 to have their respective Returns, free
 free. And now being about to set out the
 prosperous Ship called the *Lynx* ; he called
 his Daughter and Servants to deliver
 their Adventures to his Factor, who accordingly
 came, Whittington excepted, and
 according to his or her Ability, delivering
 something valuable. At what time Whittington
 came into remembrance, and being
 called, the Merchant told him the custom
 and demanded what he had that he could call
 properly his own to send as an adventure.
 To which he replied, his Poverty rendered
 him incapable of any thing in that nature.
 Whereupon, said Mrs. Alice drew out her
 Purse and offered to lay down money for
 him ; but her Father would except nothing
 but what was his proper Goods ; and again
 demanded if he had nothing that he could

only call his own: to which the poor
 replied, with a sigh, that he had nothing
 could rightly call so, unless his Cloaths
 a Cat which he had purchased with a
 my; the latter of which, the Merchant
 and him instantly to fetch, which he with
 unwillingness and almost with tears,
 as being loath to part with what was
 precious to him. And now their Ad-
 venture being delibered to the Factor, he
 and them aboard the good Ship the U-
 borne, which was fallen down to Black-
 all; and soon after set sail upon the intend-
 voyage.

CHAP. III.

Now Whittington, by reason of his hard
 usage, attempting to run away, was
 brought back by the ringing of Bow
 bells; and of the great Riches he recei-
 ved for the Adventure of his Cat, and
 how it came to pass.

Whittington being still in Mr. Fitz-
 warren's house, under the super-
 vision of the Cook-maid; and she finding her power
 over him, used it with such rigour, that it
 made him, in a manner, weary of his Life:
 which

744
 which put him upon purpose of running
 away; and in order thereto, early in the
 morning on St. Allhallows-day, he packed
 his cloaths and went as far as Bunhill-
 where; it being yet scarce day, he sat
 down to consider whether or to what place
 should go; and to bewail his unhappy
 uneasie Condition: when, to his thinking
 he heard the Bells at Bow Church
 Cheap-side, in their tuning express the
 Words; viz.

Turn again Whittington
 Thrice Lord Mayor of London.

Turn again Whittington
 Thrice Lord Mayor of London.

This made so deep an impression in
 his mind, that it quite altered his former
 determination and made him resolve upon
 turning again to his Service; which
 accordingly did, e'er he was missed by any
 of the Family: where too must leave him
 a while to follow his drudgery, and bear
 patiently the Cook-maids Doggedness
 Cruelty, to follow the Ship: which
 this morn, was rolling in a fearful
 upon the Ocean.

The good Ship the Unicorne being distressed by Storms and Tempests, through many dangerous Seas, nor without great hazard of being Lost away; arrived at last on the Coast of Barbary by the Golden Coast, then unknown and un-navigated by the Christians; and there exposing their Goods to the view of the Moors, who flock'd to the Shore to admire them. It was not long before the news was carried to the King of the Country, who sent one of his Lords to bring the Master and Factor to Court; and with them some of every Commodity they had to expose to Sale: which so highly pleased him, that he commanded they should be feasted at his own Table in his Royal Palace; bargaining before hand for their whole Ships Cargo.

Now so it happened, that whilst they were sitting on Carpets spread on the Pavement, in the Moorish fashion is, the smell of the Spices, which were their present, drew after such a multitude of Rats and Mice, that they, in a manner, covered the Table notwithstanding the diligence the Servants used to drive them away; which made the Master inquire of one of the Noble men that sat by him, whether they cherished that sort of Vermin for increase, seeing they were

were there in such numbers: to which
replied, no, but that they were the Plague
of the Wallace, and so annoyed it, that
King could neither eat nor sleep in quiet
them, although he kept many persons
purpose to guard him and drive them away
and that he would give half the Revenues
of his Kingdom to be rid of them and
his Repose.

At this the Master inwardly rejoiced
told him he had in his Ship a little Beast
though very rare and strange, that he
ed not, in a short time, would clear the
lace of them. This discourse passing
way of an Interpreter, came soon to
King's Ear; who expressed much
threast, and Embracing the Master and
Factor, desired them instantly to lend
the Beast they spoke off, and that if he
formed what they averred; he would
Lieu of her Ballast their Ship with Silver
and Lade it with Gold and Pearl. The
great offer at the first dash, that the
might be the more valued, and the
more desirous of her, made them seem
willing to part with her; alledging,
he was so useful in the Ship in preserving
their Utensils and Merchandise from
like spoil, that they were very loath to

but the King continuing his offers,
more earnestly desiring her, she was
at last sent for, and from under the
arm of him that brought her, whilst great
was the expectation of all that were present
in what manner of Creature it might
be, she was cast suddenly upon the Table;
the clapping the German busse at the
ends which were prepared as a second feast,
fell upon them with such fury, that he
cut off the Heads of some, the Legs of o-
thers; leaving some panting for Life and
others quite dead: she in less than half an
hour space killed and put them to flight, in
such a manner, that not one alive was to be
found in the Room. The which whilst she
was doing, great was the pleasure the
King and his Nobles conceived thereat,
commending the sport beyond that of the
hunting the Lyons; with which Creatures
the Country abounded: some praising her
for her Tabby skin; others for her noble
brave; and some again for her Lyon-like
maintenance: when, in the mean while,
having no more work to do; she came pur-
suing and curling to the King and Queen as
she had proclaimed her own Victory,
which made them the more Rejoyce, espe-
cially when the Master told them that she
was

was with Young, and that those young
 time, might furnish the whole Countrey
 so that the King, having first payed for
 Cargo and caused it to be Landed, sent
 Lieu of the Car, Silver, Gold, Pearls,
 Diamonds and other precious Stones,
 such abundance, that the Master was
 amazed; and finding himself sufficiently
 rewarded he took his leave; and weighing Anchor
 soon after came safe to Black-wall. Where
 upon the Master and Factor with others
 of the Ships crew came to Mr. Fitz-warren
 House, situate in Leaden-hall-street, bring-
 ing with them the Gold, Pearls and Jew-
 els, &c. as being too precious to be long
 trusted on Board: And first presenting
 Bills of Lading, the Merchant was won-
 derfully satisfied therewith: but when he
 saw the Treasure, which was not contained
 therein, he grew amazed, demanding of
 whom it appertained and having heard the
 whole Story, as before recited; he called
 Whittington by the Title of Master to be
 called; who, after some excuses, with much
 cringing and bashfulness, came; where he
 was saluted by the name of Mr. Whitting-
 ton by all present, and forced to sit down:
 and when he had a while wondered what this
 strange alteration, in carriage towards him,
 should

ould mean, and made many excuses of his unworthiness, as merly supposing they did to mock him: his Master came to him, and told him, that what they did was in earnest, though he might take it otherwise; for that he was a better man in Estate than himself: and thereupon presented him with the Treasure, and told him all that he had been informed; saying, God forbid that he should detain from him any thing that was his. At which the poor man, oversjoyed, fell down upon his knees; and returned most hearty thanks to God, that had looked upon his misery and taken compassion on him: and thereupon distributed liberally, not only to the Master and Sea-men, but to all his fellow-Servants; giving even the ridged Col-maid, who had so severely used him, 100 l. towards her Marriage: but above all, he remembered fair Mrs. Alice with a present of Pearls and Jewels, as an acknowledgement of her kind offer.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How *Whittington* married his Master's Daughter, and was chose Sheriff of London, and afterwards chosen the first time Lord Mayor: with other things that happened.

WHittington upon this great success, being put into good Cloaths, his lodging changed from the Garret to the best Room in the house; began to love like himself: insomuch that being a comely Person, from that moment fast Mrs. Alice began to cast her Eyes upon him, and he to be caressed by Merchants and others, abroad and at home, who were taken as much with his Person and modest discourse, as with his admirable Fortune.

Long it was not ere Mrs. Alice having discovered her Affections she bore Whittington to her Father; he propounded a Match between them, which was joyfully embraced on the content of either Party: so that they were splendidly married, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and many worthy Citizens, being at the Wedding. And now his fame spreading wide, by his trading in merchandise, which he above all things chose, since at first he had been so fortunate therein. He was picked for Sheriff, which he, in

modesty, would have refused to hold; offering his fine to be excused: but his Father-in-law resolving to have him take upon him that honourable Trust he complied with his desires, and so well behaved himself in his Office, that he ever after gained the Love of the whole City; Drewry Barratine being his Brother-Sheriff and Sir John Hudly Mayor of London, as we find it in Stow and Fabian, Anno 1493. and four years after, himself was chosen Lord-Mayor and Knighted: and so well he managed that great Office, that although there were Differences and Discontents between the King and the Commons, Trade flourished in the City in the greatest Splendor imaginable, and Merchandise improved more then ever; so that the Commodities of all Nations flowed in upon us: And in this year of his Mayoralty, it was that the Dukes of Hereford & Norfolk were banished by R. Richard the Second, after he had suspended the Contention that was to be fought between them; the former for ten years and the latter for ever. So well did Sir Richard Whittington behave himself in his first Mayoralty, that in the eighth year of the Reign of Henry the fourth, he was a second time chosen Lord-Mayor; and again so well discharged his Trust to the honour and advantage of the

B

City;

City; that the Citizens being, as it were, enamoured of so good a Magistrate, men of great Estates being then scarce, that he was a third time chose Lord-Mayor, in the 7th. year of the Reign of Henry the 5th. so that he had the honour to bear the Sword in the Reign of three Kings. And in this last Mayoralty, King Henry the 3d. having conquered the greatest part of France; returned into England victorious, with Katherine his Queen, Daughter to Charles the French, was met on Black-heath by Sir Richard Whittington and his Brethren, the Aldermen and other prime Citizens, in gold Chains and Scarlet, to the number of 300, who had prepared Pageants and many splendid devices for their Entertainment: and on St. Mathews-day following, the Queen being solemnly Crowned in Westminster Abbey; and the Magnificence attended by all the Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Bishops, &c. Sir Richard Whittington and his Brethren the Aldermen, gave likewise their attendance; and taking their places at the Table of feasting, were welcomed and in their order as highly entertained as the rest. And all Lord-Mayors of London, have ever since had the honour to be at the solemn Inaugurations of Princes; claiming it as their Right to attend, &c.

C H A P. V.

How Whittington being a third time Lord-Mayor of London, Entertained King Henry the fifth at Dinner in Guild-hall; of the Entertainment and Satisfaction the King and his Nobles received, and other matters of note.

SIR Richard Whittington flourishing and abounding in Riches, beyond what can reasonably be credited; his Estate likewise augmented by the Death of Mr. Fitz warren his Father-in-law, who left him sole Executor. He soon after the Inauguration of the Queen invited the King and his Royal Consort, together with the Ambassadors and Nobility of the Court to a splendid Entertainment at Guild hall, London; where they vouchsafed to come and honour the City with their Presence; and were entertained not only with Pageants and pompous Shows, but with all the varieties imaginable; with musick and whatever might be thought pleasing to the Royal Guest: and in the Presence Chamber where the King and Queen, &c. dined, the fire was made of Cedar, Cinamon and Cyprus; into which were cast Myrrh, Frankincense, Nutmegs,

Mace, Cloves and the like; which so fragrant
 ly perfumed the place, that the King being
 wonderfully pleased thereat, told Sir Rich-
 ard, that although every thing was costly
 and delicate to his high contentment, yet
 he was taken with nothing more than the
 scent the fire cast through the Apartment: to
 whom he humbly replied, that it much re-
 joyced him that any thing was in his power
 to give his Majesty satisfaction, or the least
 cause to be pleased; but since his Highness
 had been pleased to praise that fire, he purpo-
 sed, e'er he departed, to entertain him with
 one that should give him far greater content:
 which the King being desirous to probe, he
 went out and suddenly returning, brought
 under his arm a bundle of Writings: say-
 ing, May it please your Majesty, I have here
 a faggot, left designedly for this fire, which
 I humbly conceive will more redound to your
 Majesties satisfaction; and thereupon open-
 ing the Bundle he said, here is your High-
 ness security for moneys lent by the Com-
 pany of Mercers, to maintain your Wars
 in France, viz. 10000 marks; which I here
 cancel in the flames: and after it I send
 this security of 1500 marks lent by the City
 upon the like occasion; and next, another for
 20000 marks borrowed of the Company of
 Grocers; a fourth for 3000 marks borrow-
 ed

id of the Merchant-Taylors : a fifth for
 1000 marks borrowed of the Drapers : a
 sixth for 1000 mark borrowed of the Skin-
 ners : a seventh for 1000 marks borrowed
 of the Ironmongers : an eighth for 1000
 marks borrowed of the Merchant-Staplers :
 a ninth for 3000 marks borrowed of the
 Goldsmiths : - a tenth for 3000 marks bor-
 rowed of the Haberdashers : and three others
 for a thousand marks, each borrowed of the
 Tinctors, Brewers and brown Bakers :
 with divers others, which here I sacrifice to
 the flame, due from your Majesty to Mr.
 Fitz-warren my Father-in-law, deceased, to
 whom I am sole Executor : with others
 likewise due from divers of your Nobility
 present ; all which I sacrifice to the Love
 and Honour I bear my Sovereign : amount-
 ing to the sum of 60000 pounds sterling. And
 can your Majesty, said he, desire a fire more
 pleasing ? at which voluntary generosity, the
 King, not being a little surprized, rose from
 his Seat, and taking him in his Arms, ten-
 derly embracing him, said he, I believe no
 King had ever such a Subject : and upon
 the returning to his Pallace, did him all the
 honour imaginable ; promising ever to e-
 stem him amongst the first rank of those he
 held his friend and wore nearest his heart :
 and so highly satisfied with his magnificent
 Enter-

Entertainment ; Sir Richard Whittington Lord-Mayor, carrying the Sword before the King, conducted him out of the City: and having received the thanks of the Noble-men at parting, who highly commended his generosity and greatness of Spirit. He returned to his Charge, and flourishing many years after ; lived and dyed beloved of all men.

Thus he, who rising from a mean Estate, Was three times *Londons* chiefest magistrate; Favour'd of Princes, and belov'd of all ; For which, him luckey *Whittington* we call.

C H A P. VI.

His Deeds or Acts of Charity in Buildings and Gifts were many; the most material of which I shall not spare to mention.

IN the Vintry he built a Church, dedicating it to St. Michael ; calling it Paternoster in the Royal ; adding a College dedicated to St. Mary and an Hospital called God's House, indowing them liberally. He built likewise another College, which he called by his own name. And of his founding was the Prison of Newgate. He added to and much repaired St. Bartholomew's Hospital : And erected a Library at the

the Gray-Fryers, London. And built a Stone Market-house in the place now called the Stocks. He enlarged and paved Guild-hall, adding a Conduit to serve the places near it with Water: and many other things worthy of himself and of imitation by others.

CHAP. VII.

Of things of note that happened in his three several Mayoralties.

THE two Dukes before-mentioned were banished.

Constantinople was taken by Mahomet the second, Emperour of the Turks.

A great Tempest of Thunder and Lightning happened, which destroyed in divers places 600 Houses and 3000 People.

William Foxly Pot-maker to the Mint in the Tower, slept 14 days and 15 nights, and afterwards waking it seemed to him that he had slept but one night.

Great Justs were held in the Town before the French Nobility taken Prisoners in France at the Battle of Azin Court.

Seven Dolphins came up the River of Thames, and played up and down till four of them were killed and the other three carried off by the Tyde.

A terrible and universal Earthquake, accompanied with Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, hap'ned for the space of six hours.

A Combat was fought before the King in Smithfield; but taken up e'er any of the parties were killed.

Paul's Steeple was set on fire and burnt with Lightning, after it had been once quenched with Vinegar.

And thus much for famous Whittington, and what happened whilst he lived, as yet worthy prator, the Chair of London.

FINIS.



